

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2317 without my signature.

While I am supportive of reasonable efforts to eradicate the historical trend of women earning less than men for doing the same work, I do not believe the provisions of AB 2317 are necessary in order to achieve this goal.

Current state and federal laws forbid and provide civil and criminal penalties for an employer that pays discriminatory wage rates to employees on account of gender. The civil penalty for violation of the equal pay requirement was doubled just last year. In addition, SB 1809, which I recently signed into law, classifies the violation of equal pay requirements as one of the more serious labor law violations for which an employee can bring a private civil action. We need to allow these new laws time to work before considering additional penalties.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger